2007-08

Month	Offtake
April, 2007	25.55
May, 2007	28.04
June, 2007	27.19
TOTAL:	80.78

Wheat import

632. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have shelved its earlier proposal to import wheat from US due to unusually high weed content in the US varities, much beyond the permissible levels set in the Indian plant protection standards;

(b) if so, whether Government are searching for alternate sources like Australia for import of wheat to augment its buffer stocks to comfortable levels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The wheat is imported on Government account by floating Global Tenders in which wheat of any country is eligible for import as per tender specifications and conditions. During the year 2007-08 the State Trading Corporation of India (STC), have placed orders for import of 5.11 lakh MTs of wheat from various countries. The US request for relaxation of Phytosanitary norms regarding tolerance levels of quarantine weed seeds in wheat consignments was not accepted by the Government, in view of likely threat of entry of quarantine weeds into the country, which do not exist presently in India.

Weeds in imported wheat

†633. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat is being imported from foreign countries at 317 and 330 Dollar per tonne;

(b) whether a team of Indian Agriculture Scientists sent to America has found such weeds in imported wheat which are not found in India; and

(c) whether such weeds would not damage our crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) 5.11 lakh MTs of wheat has been ordered to be imported at a weighted average price of US $ 325.59 PMT C&F (FO)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) A delegation of officials from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation as part of ongoing bi-lateral negotiations on plant health held discussions with U.S. authorities in May, 2007. The request of the USA for relaxation of Phytosanitary norms regarding tolerance levels of quarantine weed seeds in wheat consignments was not accepted by India, in view of likely threat of entry of quarantine weeds into the country, which do not exist presently in India. No import consignments, not conforming to the Phytosanitary specifications prescribed under Plant Quarantine (regulation of import into India) Order, 2003, will be permitted entry into the country.

Import of wheat

634. DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of wheat imported during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto July, 2007) and the countries from where it is imported, country-wise;

(b) the details of importing agencies, as authorised by Government; and

(c) the prices per MT in respective cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There was no import of wheat during 2005 on Government account. During the year 2006-07, 54.54 lakh MTs of wheat was imported. The country-wise details of the quantities is given below:-

Sl. No.	Country of origin	Qty. In Lakh MT)
1.	Australia	14.28
2.	Russia	16.71
3.	Canada	11.86
4.	Argentina	1.52
5.	France	2.60
6.	Ukraine	1.72
7.	Bulgaria	0.37
8.	Romania	0.67
9.	Hungry	4.10
10.	Czech Republic of Slovakia	0.71
	TOTAL:	54.54

(b) The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., (A Government of India Enterprise), New Delhi, has been authorised by Government for import of wheat on Government account.